

A<sub>1</sub> concl. image forming apparatus which moves in a reciprocating manner printing paper to form plural images of various colors so as to overlap each other, thereby giving a color image. The present invention also relates to a print forming process and a printing system.--.

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✓ ✓

Please substitute the paragraph starting at page 1, line 16 and ending at page 2, line 10 with the following replacement paragraph. A marked-up copy of this paragraph, showing the changes made thereto, is attached.

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A<sub>2</sub> --With the increased popularity of apparatus from which image data can be obtained with ease, such as digital video cameras and digital cameras, there is recently an increase in demand for color image printing apparatus which form a color image on printing paper on the basis of the image data obtained. Printing systems of such color image printing apparatus include, for example, a thermal transfer system and the like. Printing using the thermal transfer system is conducted by arranging an ink sheet, on which a thermal sublimation or hot-melt ink has been coated, in close vicinity to printing paper, selectively heating the ink sheet by a thermal head to transfer the sublimated or melted ink to the printing paper, thereby forming an ink image on the printing paper. A thermal transfer printing apparatus, in particularly, a sublimation-type thermal transfer printing apparatus, by which such printing of the thermal transfer system is conducted, may be used as a printing apparatus to conduct printing on printing paper on the basis of image data obtained from a digital camera or the like to provide a high-quality full-color image.--.

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✓ ✓

Please substitute the paragraph starting at page 2, line 11 and ending at line 24, with the following replacement paragraph. A marked-up copy of this paragraph, showing the changes made thereto, is attached.

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A<sub>3</sub> --Apparatus for forming a high-quality full-color image other than those described above, for example, Print Club (trade name) by which a photographic image is formed on a small size sticker that can be easily stuck on a purse, pocket notebook or the like, and films equipped with a lens, which is portable to take photographs and the like have been widely used in recent years. Owing to the increased popularity of these apparatus, prints with high-quality full-color images have been utilized in a form that can be stuck on or put into purses or pocket notebooks to be carried around so that one can appreciate them or show or exchange them with others.--.

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✓ ✓

Please substitute the paragraph starting at page 2, line 25 and ending at page 3, line 17 with the following replacement paragraph. A marked-up copy of this paragraph, showing the changes made thereto, is attached.

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A<sub>4</sub> --Therefore, prints in the form that can be stuck on or put into purses, pocket notebooks or the like to be carried around are required even of prints prepared by means of a digital camera or the like. There is thus a demand for the development of a printing system which can form such a print. More specifically, with the increased popularity of telephone cards, credit cards and the like, purses and pocket notebooks where such cards can be stored with ease have been widely used. Therefore, there is a demand for the development of a printing system which can form a print of the same size as such cards. The specific form of the telephone cards

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and credit cards in use is a rectangle of 54 mm × 85.5 mm as illustrated in Fig. 12, with their four corner edges rounded in the form of an arc and having a curvature radius R of 4 mm. On the other hand, as printing paper which can provide prints that can be stuck on optional articles, there is so-called label type printing paper (label printing paper) of a constitution like a sticker.--.

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✓ ✓

Please substitute the paragraph starting at page 3, line 18 and ending at page 4, line 5 with the following replacement paragraph. A marked-up copy of this paragraph, showing the changes made thereto, is attached.

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-- To obtain a print in such a form, the printing paper is generally required to be moved in a reciprocating manner in a printing apparatus, such as a thermal transfer providing apparatus, to form plural images of various colors so as to overlap each other, thereby giving a color image. As a result, image cannot be formed on at least a portion of the ends of the printing paper because the printing paper is required to be supported without detaching it upon printing. Therefore, the resulting print contains a blank portion. In other words, since the size of an image which can be formed is limited in the color image printing apparatus, it is impossible to provide a print in which an image has been formed over the whole surface thereof like a silver salt photograph.--.

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✓ ✓

Please substitute the paragraph starting at page 7, line 25 and ending at page 8, line 7 with the following replacement paragraph. A marked-up copy of this paragraph, showing the changes made thereto, is attached.

Q6 --It is an object of the present invention to provide printing paper usable in a color image forming apparatus which reciprocatorily moves printing paper to form plural images of various colors so as to overlap each other, thereby giving a color image. It is also an object of the present invention to provide a printing process and a printing system capable of providing a print having a form that is easy to be held without striking on a holder or being caught thereby upon being put into the holder, and in which an image can be printed over substantially the whole surface thereof.--.

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✓ ✓

Please substitute the paragraph starting at page 13, line 15 and ending at page 14, line 3 with the following replacement paragraph. A marked-up copy of this paragraph, showing the changes made thereto, is attached.

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Q7 --In a thermal transfer printing apparatus, in which inks of plural colors are used to form images of plural colors by moving the printing paper in a reciprocating manner so as to overlap each other, thereby forming a color image, printing positions of the plural ink images must be exactly matched with each other. Therefore, the printing paper is required to be held without being released until formation of the ink images of the respective colors is completed. Accordingly, the printing system according to the present invention making use of the label printing paper having portions which lie nearer to an end than the easy-cut structure, and do not need to be printed and can be used as a support, can be suitably applied in particular to a printing system using such a printing apparatus.--.

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Please substitute the paragraph starting at page 20, line 26 and ending at page 21, line 12 with the following replacement paragraph. A marked-up copy of this paragraph, showing the changes made thereto, is attached.

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Ag --According to this printing paper, the size of the print after the outside portions 14 which lie outside the perforations 12 have been cut off is preferably 52.0 to 56.0 mm in short-side length and 83.5 to 87.5 mm in long-side length, particularly 54 mm in short-side length and 85.5 mm in long-side length. This size is equal to the size of a telephone card or credit card and is convenient for putting into a purse or pocket notebook to carry it. As described above, the perforations are desirably formed at positions with a ratio of the long side to the short side amounts to about 855 to 540 when the outside portions 14 have been cut off.--.

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✓ ✓  
Please substitute the paragraph starting at page 22, line 17 and ending at page 23, line 12 with the following replacement paragraph. A marked-up copy of this paragraph, showing the changes made thereto, is attached.

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Ag --Printing paper according to another embodiment of the present invention is illustrated in Figs. 8, 9A and 9B. This printing paper has substantially a rectangular form and is provided with easy-cut structures 15, extending straight parallel to the short side of the printing paper in the vicinity of both ends of the long side, by which the printing paper can be easily cut. It is preferred that the easy-cut structure is a perforation. In the upper and lower portions at which the perforation 15 intersects with the long side, notches having an edge that is smoothly connected to the perforation 15 and to the long side of the printing paper and smoothly curved in

the form of a curve convex toward the outside of the printing paper are provided. Outside portions 17 which lie outside the perforation 12 are connected to a center portion 16 via a straight line portion located between the curved edges. The outside portions 17 can be easily cut off from the center portion 16. By cutting off the outside portions 17, the center portion 16 of the printing paper can be made in a form in which four corner edges thereof are rounded.--.

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Please substitute the paragraph starting at page 27, line 12 and ending at page 28, line 6 with the following replacement paragraph. A marked-up copy of this paragraph, showing the changes made thereto, is attached.

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--As to the material of the receiving layer 23, any material may be used as long as it is a resin which easily receives a sublimate or melting coloring material (ink) transferred from an ink sheet by heating. For example, materials such as polyester resin, polybutyral resin, polyurethane resin, polyvinyl chloride resin, polyvinyl acetate resin or vinyl chloride-vinyl acetate copolymer resin may be used. Various kinds of plasticizers, antioxidants, ultraviolet absorbents, fluorescent brightening agents and the like may be mixed into the resin. As needed, a layer for preventing abnormal transfer may be provided on the receiving layer 23. As for the abnormal transfer-preventing layer, for example, an ultraviolet curable silicone resin, thermosetting silicone resin, fluorine-containing resin or the like may be used. Alternatively, various kinds of modified silicone oils, fluorine-containing oils, waxes and/or various kinds of surfactants may be mixed into the receiving layer 23. The thickness of the receiving layer is preferably 5 to 50  $\mu\text{m}$ , more preferably 15 to 30  $\mu\text{m}$ .--.

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✓ ✓

Please substitute the paragraph starting at page 28, line 7 and ending at line 15 with the following replacement paragraph. A marked-up copy of this paragraph, showing the changes made thereto, is attached.

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Q<sub>11</sub> --As for the sealing substrate 24 and supporting substrate 27, a film of a polymer such as polyester, polyethylene, polypropylene, polystyrene or polycarbonate, a film obtained by incorporating additives such as a filler and a softening agent into such a film, a laminate of these films, or a foam formed of such a material may be used. No particular limitation is imposed on the thickness of the substrate. However, it is preferably 10 to 50  $\mu\text{m}$ .--.

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Please substitute the paragraph starting at page 28, line 16 and ending at line 22 with the following replacement paragraph. A marked-up copy of this paragraph, showing the changes made thereto, is attached.

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Q<sub>12</sub> --As for the adhesive layer 25, an ordinary rubber adhesive or acrylic adhesive may be used. The thickness of the adhesive layer is about 5 to 30  $\mu\text{m}$ . The releasing layer 26 can be formed by applying an ordinary ultraviolet curable silicone resin or thermosetting silicone resin to the supporting substrate 27, and the thickness thereof is preferably 0.05 to 0.5  $\mu\text{m}$ .--.

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✓ ✓

Please substitute the paragraph starting at page 28, line 23 and ending at line 25 with the following replacement paragraph. A marked-up copy of this paragraph, showing the changes made thereto, is attached.

A<sub>13</sub>

--An example of the preparation of the label printing paper according to the present invention will be now described.--

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Please substitute the paragraph starting at page 31, line 9 and ending at line 24 with the following replacement paragraph. A marked-up copy of this paragraph, showing the changes made thereto, is attached.

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A<sub>K</sub> --Printing is conducted on the label printing paper described above in the same manner as in the printing paper illustrated in Figs. 2 to 4A and 4B and Figs. 8 to 11A and 11B. The outside portions 14, which lie outside the easy-cut structure 12 of the printing paper discharged from the printing apparatus, are cut off as illustrated in Fig. 7. The center portion 13 left after the cutting can be provided as a print in which an image has been formed over the whole surface thereof as illustrated in Fig. 4B. The resultant print has a form in which four corner edges thereof are rounded because the easy-cut structure 12, by which the paper can be easily cut, is formed in the above-described manner. Namely, the print has a form that is easy to be held and will not strike the holder or being caught by the holder when being put into a holder.--

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✓ ✓

Please substitute the paragraph starting at page 31, line 25 and ending at page 32, line 13 with the following replacement paragraph. A marked-up copy of this paragraph, showing the changes made thereto, is attached.



Q<sub>13</sub>

--When the print is used for sticking on an article rather than being put into a purse, pocket notebook or the like, only the center portion 13 of the image-receiving layer portion 21 needs to be separated for use without cutting off the outside portion 14 of the supporting layer portion 22 along the perforation 12b. In this case, the outside portion 14 of the supporting layer portion 22 can be used as a supporting member upon the separation of the center portion 13 of the image-receiving layer portion 21, or used as a guide upon inserting a nail or the like between the image-receiving layer portion 21 and the supporting layer portion 22 at the portion of the cutting line 12a, thereby separating the image-receiving layer portion 21 from the supporting layer portion 22 with ease.--.

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Please substitute the paragraph starting at page 32, line 14 and ending at line 22 with the following replacement paragraph. A marked-up copy of this paragraph, showing the changes made thereto, is attached.

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Q<sub>16</sub>

--As described above, the present invention, provides prints capable of being stuck on optional articles, and having a form that can be easily put in a holder such as a purse, pocket notebook or card case without striking on the holder or being caught thereby. The present invention also provides a print forming process and a printing system which provide a print in which an image has been formed over substantially the whole surface thereof.--.

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